

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

50, PORCHESTER TERRACE,
HYDE PARK, W.,

NOVEMBER 14, 1904.

DEAR EDITOR,

I have been asked to get more helpers for the Nature Study work in connection with the Children's Country Holidays Fund. The Committee try to do something to make the children get a glimpse of the beauties of the country in which they spend their two weeks' holiday. Among the 3,000 to 4,000 children that are annually sent away from London, not a few seem to respond to the efforts made in this direction. One or two ex-students of the House of Education have been most kind in helping us, but we badly want more such help. We are especially anxious to secure ladies who are able either to speak at the London Schools to the children who are going away, on the flowers, birds, insects, &c., that they are likely to see; or, better still, who will conduct rambles of some twenty selected children in the neighbourhood of London. All expenses would be paid; and I feel that there must be many students, who live in the home counties, who would be able to devote one or two Saturday afternoons to inspiring our poor London children with a little of that love and enthusiasm for Nature which they owe to their own Alma Mater.

For further particulars please write to the Hon. Secretary, Miss Philp, 25, Lavington Road, West Ealing, who will be glad to receive offers of assistance.

Yours faithfully,

H. FRANKLIN,

Hon. Organising Sec. P.N.E.U.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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DEAR EDITOR,

A question arose at our recent meeting as to the difficulty of obtaining information about the Perry Pictures which we use in the P. R. S. and appreciate so much. Ex-students may be glad to hear that there is a "Perry Magazine" published monthly by the Perry Pictures Company, which can be obtained from the Art for Schools Association, 46, Great Ormond Street, London. It contains various articles on well-known artists with reproductions of their works, and also papers on the teaching of Art, &c. The November number is just out and contains, amongst other articles, one on Watts with seven reproductions, and another on the "Use of Pictures in Teaching Geography," with four illustrations. There is also a short paragraph about Jules Breton, with a portrait by himself, the "Recall of the Gleaners" and the "End of Labour," which I think we should find useful in connection with our Picture Talk Lessons this term. The magazine can be obtained singly by non-subscribers.

M. C.

SEPTEMBER 8TH.

DEAR EDITOR,

I went to Kew Gardens a few weeks ago, where I had not been for many years. I spent a most enjoyable day there, and quite made up my mind to go again soon.

I was much pleased with a most beautiful collection of "Nature Studies," by Marianne North. There are some four or five hundred pictures most beautifully painted of flowers and fruits from all parts of the world. The dado round the gallery is made from wood of all sorts brought from all these different places where the flowers and fruit grew. It is polished and put in as panels, and looks most effective.

I strongly recommend readers of our magazine to visit this Gallery if they have not already done so.

E. G. D.

The Editor feels sure that all students will be interested in the following extracts from a letter of Mrs. Wakefield's (M. R. Nield), kindly contributed by a fellow-student. Mr.

Wakefield is a Commissioner of Customs in China, so we are enabled to enjoy a little modern history at first hand.

"CUSTOM HOUSE,
"GENSAN.

"I promised you an account of the bombardment of June 30th. It was an exciting hour before breakfast. We were asleep when the ships arrived, enjoying a good rest after being up till after one o'clock with baby, who was tormented by some mosquitoes which had got into her net and kept her awake. Amah (the nurse) had been sleeping a night in the town for a rest, and came rushing up to the house, clogs in hand and very much scared, to tell us the news, and as soon as we awoke we had the flag hoisted pretty fast, and ran out as we were to the verandah to see the seven little black Russian boats in the harbour, some occupied in towing a captured schooner across into deep water to sink her.

"Five minutes after we woke up firing began, and I realised a few minutes after that I was still in my nightdress. S. rushed on his clothes and ran off to the Custom House, after ascertaining from the Missionaries' Hill that the shells were not directed that way. He broke in the door and got out the most valuable books, despatch boxes, &c., and carried them under each arm and in each hand until they began to slip down, and no wonder—as he weighed them afterwards and found he was carrying seventy-five pounds. He deposited them on the road with a young Chinese to guard them till he could find some terror-stricken boatmen hiding behind a hill, and make them carry them to our house. As it turned out, they might as well have been left in the office, as the nearest shell to the Custom Buildings was across the street from it. That shell we have, picked up by one of our boatmen.

"They first sunk by burning a little steam launch very near the jetty, and then poured very vigorous fire into the Japanese settlement—186 shots at intervals of a few seconds. All but three torpedo boats went to despatch the schooner, and these three remained quite near and poured in fire by turns.

"The horrible whiz and twang of the shells you can hardly imagine—they fairly screeched. They were small, and

did no more damage than making small holes in the wooden houses—fire only broke out in one place, but was extinguished immediately.

"There were no casualties, as the Japanese had all scuttled away at the first alarm given by the police at 5 a.m., and firing only commenced at 6 a.m. I see Skrydloff reported to the Czar they had burnt down the Japanese barracks—such nonsense! not a *single* shell went near them, though they put over fifty into the unfortunate schooner. She burnt at last, well—so they all left, and as the time before, dense fog and rain came down and hid them, so that no one could be sure in which direction the fleet went.

"The three big fellows were twelve miles outside awaiting the return of the torpedo boats. . . .

"S. away, it was left to me to keep calm and reassure the servants, who fairly shook with fear. The sound was indeed dreadful, and the idea of all that might be happening in the Japanese town. Of course, from the very safe and far away situation of our house we could only see the firing, none of the result—except when the schooner was fired at. I had no fear for ourselves, but enough anxiety on S.'s behalf, because I could not leave the place to climb a hill and see that the Custom House was safe. I confess to a sort of sea-sick sensation inside. However, I got the boy, after several tellings not to be afraid—that, of course, they could not fire at a British house, &c.—to make the kitchen fire, and make tea and toast for Amah and me, which soon quieted down those feelings. When S. came back about 8 a.m., he found us calmly playing croquet, instead of being still scared as he expected. He had tea, and told what happened; and then we undressed and went down to bathe, and had breakfast as usual. The whole day after it poured with rain, and the soldiers on duty on the hills and all around were drenched. About ten were sent to our place; and those not actually on sentry-go spent the day in our back verandah. . . .

"Many Japanese have sent their wives and children away since this affair—some had left before. Many shopkeepers are renting rooms in Korean houses to flee to in case of another scare, and to store their goods in all the time . . . but I think we are safe from more visitations for the present."